

From: Scot Ballard
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 4:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Microsoft judgment,

I Have been in the IT industries for about 6 years, I work for Microsoft for 1 of those years and Apple of one of the others.

I see open source as the next ?competitor? Microsoft will do anything I can to deny open source from coming to the front and it looks like the DOJ is trying to help it.

"Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profits. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "... (c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..."

Section III(D) takes this disturbing trend even further. It deals with disclosure of information regarding the APIs for incorporating non-Microsoft "middleware." In this section, Microsoft discloses to Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), Independent Hardware Vendors (IHVs), Internet Access Providers (IAPs), Internet Content Providers (ICPs), and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) "

This would be my proposed remedy

1. Microsoft should be forced to document to the public all file format standards before the products come to market
2. all network protocols (defined as any interaction between two computers over any networking medium).
3. all API?s should be documented before they go to market.
4. not hold open source or non for profit companies liable for using the standards they set fourth.

If you think about it the only reason people buy the new office product is for file format inter operability. The same with Server and other software.

Microsoft hasn?t ?Innovated? in a long time. They are now the IBM of 1982.

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